



CLAIMS

1. A method of removing sludge deposits from a steam generator comprising the steps of:

- 5 Identifying a location of the sludge deposit;
 draining the water level in the steam generator to just above the identified sludge deposit;
 allowing the pressure inside the steam generator to increase to a designated level;
10 venting the steam generator to induce boiling thus creating both thermal and mechanical stress in the sludge deposit; and
 draining the boiler to remove the dislodged sludge deposit.

2. A method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of inducing both
15 thermal and mechanical stress is done without the application of external heat or pressure.

3. A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the sludge deposit is on a
tubesheet of the boiler.

20 4. A method as set forth in claim 3 wherein the sludge deposit is an excessive deposit known as a collar.

5. A method as set forth in claim 4 wherein the draining of the water level is
25 to a level of between 0 and 24 inches above the identified sludge deposit.

6. A method as set forth in claim 5 including the step of identifying the next sludge deposit and draining the water level to the next sludge deposit.

7.A method as set forth in claim 6 including the steps of:

allowing the pressure inside the steam generator to increase to a designated level;

5 venting the steam generator to induce boiling thus creating both thermal and mechanical stress in the sludge deposit; and

draining the boiler to remove the dislodged sludge deposit.

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